

LaPointe wrote his findings of fact and recommendation beginning in approximately June 1994. In his report, he observed that while the local governments of St. Croix County, the City of Hudson, the Town of Troy, and the Hudson school district (which he considered to be the local community) had not expressed strong support for the proposal, they had not expressed strong opposition either. He did note that some of the municipalities asserted they lacked information to make a complete impact assessment. He cited the government services agreement the local governmental bodies had negotiated with the applicants, which provided for financial compensation by the applicants, as mitigating most of their complaints,¹⁰² and the 1992 referendum by residents of Hudson reflecting nearly equal opposition and support for the casino at Hudson. He also noted the 1993 statewide referendum in which 65.4 percent of St. Croix County residents voted in favor of a constitutional amendment restricting casino gambling. LaPointe concluded that “[w]hile the Hudson Proposal may be an expansion of a type of gaming in Hudson, it will not be an expansion of a gaming facility,” since the dog track already exists.¹⁰³ In addition, LaPointe found it did not represent an expansion of gaming in Wisconsin because the applicants had committed to closing certain of their existing casinos if the Hudson casino were operating.

¹⁰¹(...continued)
rate.

¹⁰²In mid-April 1994, the Four Feathers partnership, the City of Hudson, St. Croix County and the Hudson school district entered into a government services agreement providing for certain payments to be made by Four Feathers in lieu of taxes which would otherwise be derived from the property if privately owned. Such agreements are expressly encouraged by the BIA to ameliorate the impacts of the property tax loss and other costs imposed on the community due to the operation of the business including, for example, law enforcement resources.

¹⁰³MAO’s Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions, Nov. 15, 1994, at 18.